

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Hovey: DPUC Finding Will Promote Use of Biodiesel as Clean and Alternative Fuel in CT**



Responding to a request from state Representative DebraLee Hovey, R-112<sup>th</sup> District, the state Department of Public Utility Control ruled Wednesday that biodiesel is a renewable energy source, a finding that is expected to encourage more widespread use of the environmentally friendly fuel.

The DPUC ruling came in response to a petition from Representative Hovey filed March 23<sup>rd</sup> asking the department “to rule that biodiesel fuel is a Class 1 renewable resource” as defined under state law.

“As a legislator who has strongly supported measures to improve air quality in Fairfield County and elsewhere in Connecticut, I’m very pleased with this ruling,” Representative Hovey said. “It will help promote use of biodiesel as a clean and alternative fuel in Connecticut. “

“Biodiesel fuel can be used in standard diesel engines without modifications to the engine. It also can be used in power plants around the state that use conventional diesel oil to generate electricity. The fumes discharged from diesel engines and power plants continue to aggravate Connecticut’s air pollution problems, which are among the worst in the country. As a result, more people here contract asthma, emphysema and other respiratory diseases every year,” Representative Hovey said.

“This ruling will encourage more power plants, trucking companies and bus lines to substitute biodiesel fuel for conventional diesel, which will result in a significant improvement in the quality of the air we breathe and improve respiratory health for thousands of Connecticut residents,” Representative Hovey said.

“It’s my hope that wider use of biodiesel also will help reduce our dependence on expensive imported foreign oil,” Representative Hovey said.

Biodiesel is derived from a variety of renewable sources, including soybean oil, canola oil, sunflower oil, cottonseed oil, and animal fats and used cooking oil, Representative Hovey said.